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Feb 1, 1998

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ZAMI

Business
Forum

can take a pro-active position as oppose
to a reactive position.

POLITICA

THE CONTROVERSY :

LA CONTRAVERSIA:

**THE CHANGING
FACES OF ATLANTA
CITY COUNCIL**

**LAS
CARAS CAMBIANEN EL
COUNCIL DE ATLANTA**

**CAUSED BY THE FIRST
LESBIAN ELECTED**

**CAUSADA POR LA PRIMERA
LESBIANA ELEJIDA.**

By Aida Rentas

I have carefully chosen the words I use to discuss this important and yet controversial topic. This election saw us put a lesbian for the first time in Georgia on the City Council. As a community this should have felt like a victory for all. Not so.... This time we were not divided by race, class or even religion. Unbelievable as it may seem, we were divided by should we vote for a straight allie or one of our own. Many in the community knew and loved Mary Davis while few knew who Cathy woolard was. This was complicated more by the fact that our own local paper reported the news but also endorsed candidates.

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Porque esto es importante para nosotros? Tener representacion que conoce nuestras necesidades es un pies en la puerta, y pues, algo es algo. Vamos a mantenernos informado en cuanto a que issues estan mirando, y

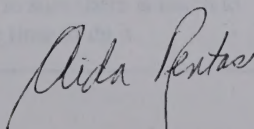
**PUBLISHER'S
PAGE**

**"Be the Change You Are
Trying To Create."**

-Ghandi

It is February, Black History Month, Valentine's Day, and Zami having a An event where lesbians gather to share, Learn and grow. I am particularly pleased that I was invited to participate. I made this sample up last night, in the Wee hours of the morning, because I felt Nothing would be as powerful, as showing you what we could do if we had a magazine whose contents were dictated by us. The grammar might not be correct, the punctuations probably are all wrong, but the idea is this. With a good editor, some writers, and a handful of advertisers we could begin creating a place where Atlanta people of color LGBT community could see themselves in the stories told. We could have features written about our needs, desires, Hobbies, sheroes, etc. Dream with me and help make this a reality. My commitment is to keep learning, researching, and working hard to give you the best, for you deserve this.

In order to facilitate People of Color entrepreneurial expansion, there is a need to share the visions of accomplished luminaries, as well as support those rising to become such, and to maintain an economic stronghold. I see this gathering today as a big step in That direction and want to congratulate Zami for this great undertaking. Peace and love.



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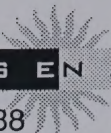
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LATINOS EN ACCIÓN

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Atlanta, Georgia 30333

HOW "ONE" WILL BENEFIT GAY AND LESBIAN YOUTH OF COLOR

"ONE" will provide GLT youth of color with continuous exposure to positive role models from the **GLT Latino, African-American, Asian** and other third world communities.

It is the goal of the publication to be a source of *empowerment, enlightenment* and *entertainment* for **GLT** youth of color.

EMPOWERMENT

1. The youth of color will be empowered by "ONE" because the publication, (through our **"FOR YOUTH" Section**,) will provide our youth with a venue to voice their opinions and concerns through a medium that will reach, not only their peers, but the community as a whole. The **"FOR YOUTH" Section** will be featured in each issue of "ONE", and will contain information on events, news, organizations and individuals of interest and importance to GLT youth of color. For this section "ONE" will solicited a large participation from GLT youth of color .

2. The magazine also has plans to offer an internship program for young Writers, Artist, Editors, etc..

ENLIGHTENMENT

1. GLT youth of color will frequently participate in the **"1 on 1"** section of the magazine. This section will be a dialogue, (on a single topic), between **two** individuals or groups from different sectors of the community This will broaden the youth experience in interacting with people of different cultures, ages, etc. and also create an avenue of exchange of ideas between the youth and other groups in the community

2. "ONE" plans to present a series of community events, one of these events will be an annual **youth summit** for youth of color to come together and reveiw and examine the issues and concerns they've expressed in the **"FOR YOUTH"** section of the magazine.

ENTERTAINMENT

1. GLT youth of color will be entertained each month by the contents of the entire magazine, but especially, by fact that for the first time in the history of a GLT publication they will have an ongoing section devoted entirely to them and their concerns.

Having access to a publication in which they can see and explore issues about themselves will have and ongoing impact on how GLT youth of color, not only, veiw themselves but the world.

BEFORE INDIGO ARTS

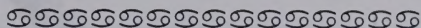
By Aida Rentas

I remember not so long ago wondering where to go for some R&R in this here Atlanta. I dreamt of a place where we could sit and talk and actually hear ourselves. This place would have art that represented me and my ethnicity and at the same time would be exciting.

Out of frustration and no other choice, I would wonder out on a Wednesday night to go to The Otherside, as Wednesday is People of Color night. After maybe one drink and trying to talk over the blare of the loudspeaker, I would opt to go to Denny's for some coffee.

One day I received a phone call from a friend to try to get an ad for my magazine from Indigo Art. Who? I soon drove over to the address given me to find out what this was all about. I met with Kathy and she was the back cover of my Mock Up for the magazine. Since then not only do I feel I have a new couple of friends, but now on a Sunday night I can plan to amble on down to hear some good jazz singing.

On a recent Friday night I went to see a one woman show that I could not believe was being held in this space. Slowly it is becoming the heartbeat of our Lesbian and Gay community. Let us make sure we financially support this wonderful space with our business so that it doesn't become just another closed business. We need to say Thank You with our financial support and volunteering wouldn't hurt. I'm sure there is much to be done and little time to do it.



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ALBITA

On Albita's second Crescent Moon/Epic release, DICEN QUE... (THEY SAY...), the Havana-born singer has a mission: to perform authentic Cuban music in a contemporary framework. Produced by Albita Rodriguez with her musical director Julia Sierra, Dicen Que... features mostly Albita's original compositions and was recorded live in the studio, without sequencers and other high-tech studio equipment. Many of the songs were completed in a single take.

Albita finds inspiration for her songs in everything and anything, but notes that an important recent influence was changing countries; she has been in the United States since 1993. "When you begin a new life, you start accumulating information and new influences. You don't know exactly where it will lead you and what it will lead you to produce," Albita explains. On Dicen Que..., Albita essentially tried to mix various types of Cuban musics, and has created a unique sound in the process. She notes that in addition to the music itself, Cubans have a unique way of speaking, using specific vocabulary and phrases. "Cuban is different from Spanish. This is part of our unique identity and allows us to express our view in our own sensibility and words."

Albita feels a particular closeness with the *guajiro* songs on Dicen Que... Her parents were well-known *punto guajiro* (acoustic Cuban country music) singers and she claims that her first living memory is seeing a *guiro*, *clave* and *bongo* (Cuban percussion instruments).

"'Habra Musica Guajira (There Will Be Guajira Music)' was the title track on my first Cuban release (in 1988, on the state-owned Egrem label) and remains very important in my battle to play authentic Cuban music. 'Son de Tahurete' is also special for me. This style of *son* goes back to the period of Cuba's fight for independence against Spain, and originated in Province Oriente in the middle of the mountains." (*Son* combines African and European elements, transforms them into a polyrhythmic indigenous musical art form, and is the basis of today's *salsa*.)

"Hoy No Voy A Trabajar (Today I'm Not Going to Work)" is noteworthy for the playing of Cuban jazz great Arturo Sandoval on trumpet. Albita's group opened for Sandoval on her very first US tour, and the two expatriate musicians struck up a friendship. "I needed a person who could play this *descarga* ('jam' song style) very aggressively," Albita explains. "Arturo is the only one who has the rhythm of the *Carnival Cubano*, who could play with this flavor and technique." "Hoy No Voy A Trabajar" mixes *conga* (a standard Afro-Cuban rhythm) with *descarga*. About the lyrics, Albita jokes, "Could you imagine if my conga player decided *he* didn't want to work today? I'd be incapacitated..."

In "Mirame, Rozame, Amame (Look At Me, Brush Against Me, Love Me)" Albita subtly incorporates Baroque musical stylings without losing the sense of Cuban dance and rhythm. Lyrically, it is one of the album's most provocative cuts. Albita says that such lyrics as "*I want you to kiss me/but I don't want witnesses*" suggest that "love is mysterious, and that concealing it in the beginning makes it more enjoyable." Towards the end of the song, Albita sings "*If women*

(Continued on Page 7)

played tres/They would overrule the men" as Julia Sierra breaks into a exquisite *tres* solo. (The *tres* is a sweet-sounding Cuban guitar that has three sets of two strings.) "Corazon Rumbero" deals with themes from Santeria, that fusion of Catholic and Yoruba religions which comprises one of the richest and most fascinating strands in Cuban culture.

Most of Albita's group have been together for six years and played together in Cuba and Colombia, before moving to Miami. Julia Sierra has been Albita's musical director for six years, and wrote two songs on Dicen Que...; she is also one of the only female *tres* players in the world. Albita describes Julia as "a unique musician with a great capacity for understanding who captures where I want to go musically...I am proud to have her as my closest friend as well as my musical director."

Flautist Mercedes Abal has been performing with Albita for eleven years. Pianist Vivianne Pintado and bassist Mandy Gonzalez are also long-time members who came to the US with Albita. Newcomers to the group on this album include trumpeter Eduardo Leal, trombonist Jorge Dobal, and percussionists Fernando Pina and Ramon Rodriguez. All of the musicians are Cuban, and Albita explains that when she met them, she was impressed by them both musically and by what kind of people they are.

Albita, who credits her parents as her greatest musical influence, began playing when she was 15 and first learned *punto guajiro*. By the time she was 19, Albita was the youngest performer on Cuba's musical television showcase "Palmas y Canas," which is akin in spirit to the United States' "Hee-Haw." Albita thrived in Cuba, playing Havana's top tourist hotels and nightclubs including the famed Tropicana. Her first album, Habra Musica Guajira, was released in 1988. In 1991 Albita was offered a major recording contract in Colombia, for which the Cuban government allowed her to live abroad, but continued to take a huge percentage of her earnings. The singer recorded two more albums which sold widely throughout Latin America.

In April 1993, at the height of their pre-US career, Albita y Su Grupo decided to break away. They set up a visit to a recording studio in Mexico, went to the US border, and casually walked over the bridge into El Paso, thus defecting to the United States. Albita settled in Miami, where her performances in a tiny Cuban restaurant called Centro Vasco soon were attracting enthusiastic fans like Madonna (who changed the date of her birthday party in order to be able to have Albita perform at the bash), Paloma Picasso, Angelica Huston, Marisa Tomei, Rosie O'Donnell, Cindy Crawford and Gianni Versace.

Among those fans were Emilio and Gloria Estefan, whose Epic-distributed Crescent Moon label released Albita's US debut album, No Se Parece a Nada (Unlike Anything Else), in June 1995. The singer and her group commenced touring the world, playing sold-out shows in the United States, Spain, Panama, Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela and Puerto Rico. Among the high points were a performance at the North Sea Jazz Festival in Holland; a show in Spain with the Pyrenees Mountains as a backdrop; and festival appearances with Gilberto Gil and Oscar d'Leon.

As to her much commented-upon androgynous image of tailored suits and slicked-back hair, Albita remarks that "by the second song of my performances, people aren't focusing on what I

look like, but are listening to the music." She adds: "I am definitely not the typical Latin woman. I'm blond and I'm thin and that's not a typical Latin look. I like to wear comfortable clothes when I perform." She recognizes that "people need to find a reference point to express their impressions of me."

The power of Albita's music was the reference point for the press, which had nothing but the highest praise for No Se Parece a Nada and the singer's incendiary live shows. "Her music is a complete package of vocal skill, poetic beauty and outstanding playing by a group of young Cuban musicians," The Los Angeles Times wrote. New York Magazine added: "[T]his 33-year-old is hardly all flash...the *punto guajira* songs on No Se Parece a Nada smoothly blend rock, jazz, and more traditional folk elements into a steamy conga-driven salsa that explodes on impact." Paper described the singer as "part Beny More, part Marlene Dietrich," and noted that "from her first song, Albita shatters the room with the power of her rich, earthy voice."

Dicen Que, chronicles Albita's impressive growth as a singer, songwriter, and musician. She continues to fulfill her artistic dream: "a Cuban dream," she vows, "to carry my musical culture to the world."



A Latin k. d. lang: The singer unleashes her passionate sound at a party in Miami

MAGGIE RODRIGUEZ

POLITICS 101

THE CONTROVERSY :

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CAUSED BY THE FIRST LESBIAN ELECTED

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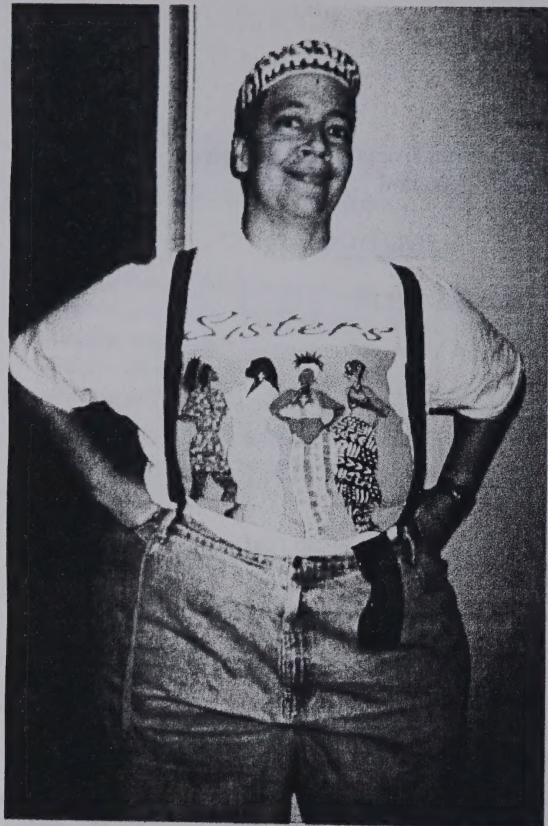
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Check it out "Sisters" Pat Hussein



Donna Collier videotaping at Highlander

FOCUS: LESBIANS

"Cassandra" performing at X-mas party



And.....

Drag
Queen





Kathy Williams at Latinos En Accion Dance

EXTRA! EXTRA! EXTRA!

--> REPORT: ALMODOVAR, GAULTIER DETAINED IN CUBAN GAY CRACKDOWN

Spanish filmmaker Pedro Almodovar and French designer Jean Paul Gaultier were among the several hundred people detained in the Aug. 23 raid on Havana's most popular gay discotheque, El Periquiton, according to an unconfirmed report from the Cuban Independent Press Agency.

Cuban customers of the club were fined 30 pesos (US\$1) and released from a police station the next day. Two busloads of foreigners were transported to immigration authorities for a document check.

Marianela Ferriol, a spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Relations, said police targeted the disco because prostitutes, pimps and minors were present.

Revolutionary National Police head Angel Diaz told Radio Rebelde that the raid netted "prostitutes, pimps, some underage youth and various foreigners."

But sources in Havana and Miami say the raid was, in fact, the latest move in a widescale crackdown on all things gay.

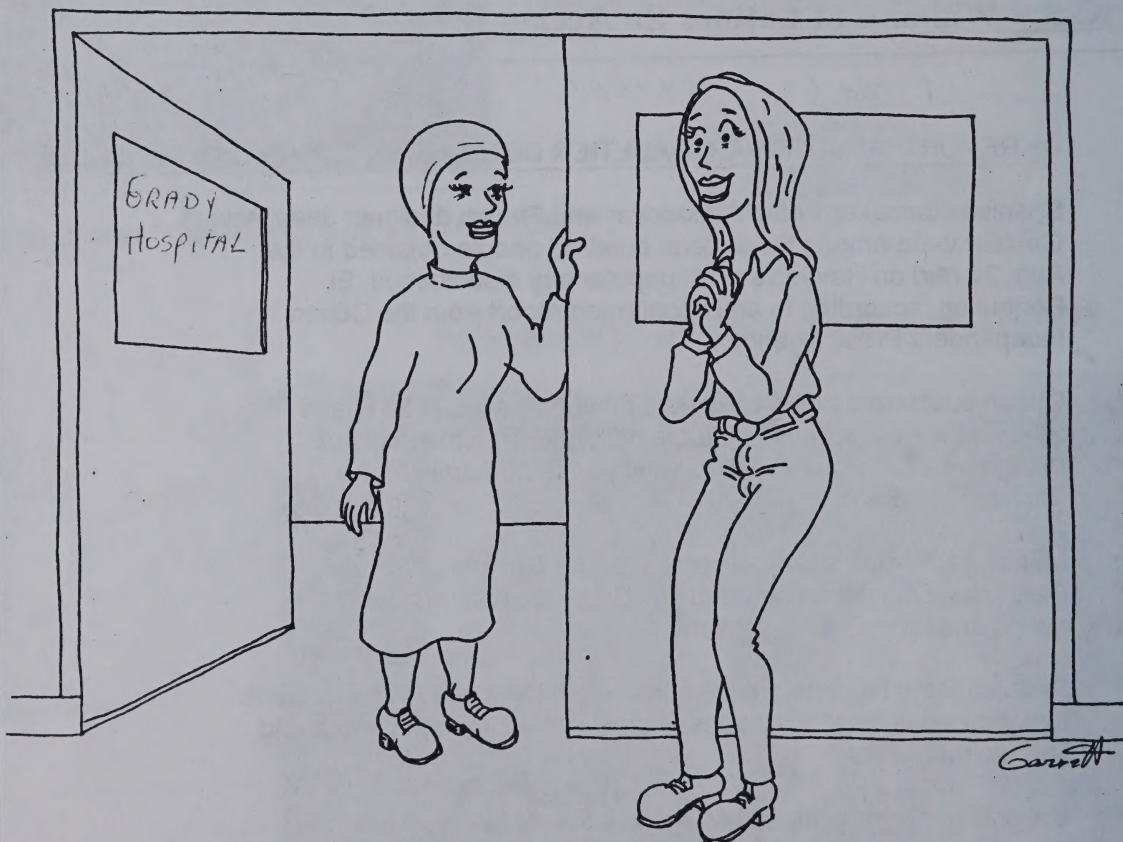
"Gays are falling under the thumb of the government," said Alberto Montano of Miami's Cuba AIDS Project. The government "needs to keep everyone in their place and these [private house-

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MATERNITY



CONGRATULATIONS! IT'S A **LESBIAN!**

Continued . . . Almodovar

discos] had become a place of freedom for gays. El Periquito was the ... gay Tropicana, and drew a lot of foreigners."

According to Miami's El Nuevo Herald, several of the dozen or so other private gay clubs in Havana also have been raided, including Mi Cayito, Jurassic Park and Fiestas de Serrano y Correa.

Several government nightclubs whose customers were predominantly homosexual also have been raided, including La Red, El Karachi and El Joker, all located in the Vedado nightlife district. Since the raids, police have restricted entry at the official clubs to opposite-sex couples, sources said.

In addition, the Cuban Association of Gays and Lesbians, which formed in 1994, has been squashed and its members were taken into custody from their places of employment, El Nuevo Herald said.

"Homosexuals and transvestites are regularly detained by the police and accused of public scandal for which they can be condemned to three months in jail or a 500 peso fine," the newspaper said.

Article 303 of the Cuban Penal Code punishes "publicly manifested" homosexuality with up to one year in prison.

--> FIRST PRIDE PARADE IN HUNGARY {{pic sent}}

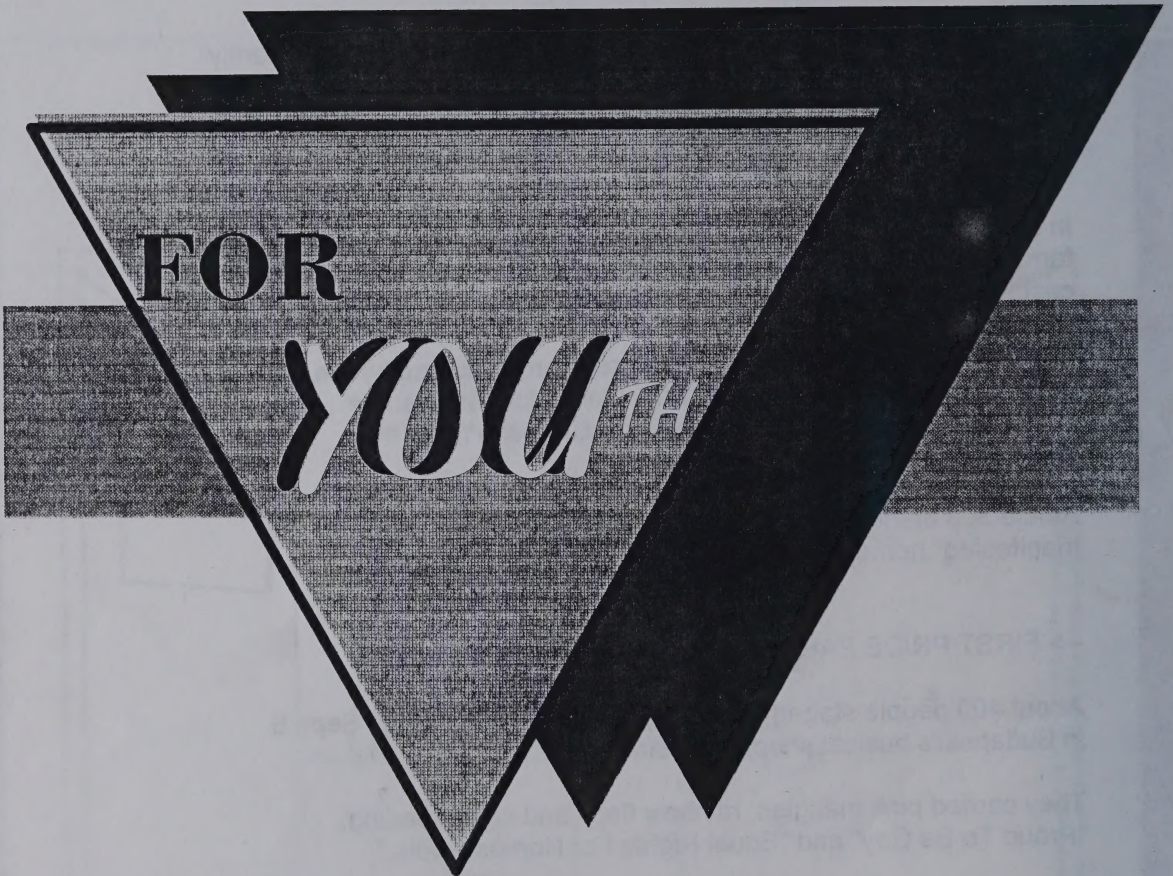
About 400 people staged Hungary's first gay-pride parade Sept. 6 in Budapest's busiest shopping district.

They carried pink triangles, rainbow flags and signs reading, "Proud To Be Gay" and "Equal Rights For Homosexuals."

Halfway through the two-kilometer march, the group stopped at Vorosmarty Square -- the traditional site for demonstrations in Budapest -- to hear a speech by Hungarian Radio's Balazs Palfi, one of the nation's few openly gay public figures.

Coming Soon!

**A MONTHLY SECTION FEATURED IN
"ONE" MAGAZINE**



**FOCUSING ON ISSUES AND CONCERNS OF
GLT YOUTH OF COLOR**

Look for It